

THE ATTACHED EXCERPTS WILL BE USED DURING THE
10:30 AM SESSION

What Judges Should Know About Specialized Assessments of Juvenile Sex
Offenders at the Point of Adjudication and Disposition

EXCERPT 1

The validity scales on these measures indicate that Mark may be attempting to portray himself in an overly favorable manner. Specifically, he overemphasized positive qualities or attributes while minimizing or denying the presence of any characteristics that may be perceived by others as negative. He failed to self-report many behaviors that are documented in official records and reported by collaterals, and continued to deny that he engaged in the offense for which he was adjudicated, despite the overwhelming evidence in this case.

This defensive posture may be understandable given the upcoming dispositional hearing, but such a socially desirable response set renders some of the testing protocols invalid. Therefore, the results from the other assessment tools – and the veracity of his statements overall – must be viewed with caution. Dealing with shame, guilt, and other underlying factors that may be associated with his ongoing denial will be important targets of treatment.

Furthermore, although Mark's parents generally provide a stable home, there exist some concerns regarding the level of structure provided and their willingness to set firm limits and hold him accountable. It will be important for Mark's parents to demonstrate a commitment to providing adequate supervision and structure, and to support any expectations or restrictions imposed by the court. In addition, they may benefit from participation in the parenting skills and informed supervisor classes offered within the local juvenile office.

EXCERPT 2

Consistent with the clinical interview and his repetitive targeting of very young children, Eric endorsed several items on the psychosexual measures that suggested the presence of deviant sexual interests. It is important to recognize that sexual arousal patterns may not be fully established at his age.

Nonetheless, it will be important to further explore his interests and arousal patterns throughout the course of treatment and as he continues to develop and mature, particularly as deviant sexual interests, arousal, and preferences are among the factors believed to be associated with sexual recidivism among juveniles.

EXCERPT 3

On the Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol (J-SOAP-II), John's scores placed him well below the average cutoff scores, suggesting that he is in the low risk range. This would indicate that sex offense-specific treatment is not warranted.

EXCERPT 4

Tim is a 13 year-old adolescent who was adjudicated for three counts of first degree sexual abuse. On the STATIC-99, he received a score of 8, which places him in the high risk category. For sex offenders with similar scores, this is associated with a range of 39 to 52 percent sexual reconviction rate over 5 to 15 years.

To review additional risk factors not addressed in the STATIC-99, the MnSOST-R was utilized as well. His score of 11 places him in the high risk category, which is associated with a 6 year sexual recidivism rate of 70 percent for offenders with similar scores.

In summary, because both actuarial tools result in a high risk determination, it is believed that this is a true estimate of the level of risk that Tim poses for recidivism.

EXCERPT 5

The following measures were used to conduct a comprehensive sex offense-specific evaluation of Ryan:

- Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children
- MMPI-A
- Rorschach Inkblots
- House-Tree-Person Test
- Assessment of Juvenile Risk

EXCERPT 6

Throughout the evaluation, Travis denied that he committed the sex offense for which he has been adjudicated, and insisted that the victim is “out to get him.”

It is well known that denial is one of the most common risk factors for sex offenders, and until Travis admits that he has committed the behavior, he will continue to pose a serious threat to those around him. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that Travis be placed in a secure residential or correctional placement.

EXCERPT 7

Based on the interview with Greg and his parents, the testing and the sex offender evaluation, I do not believe that Greg is guilty of the sexual abuse or is a threat to the community in any way.

As far as I know, the little girl that is accusing him of the sexual abuse has not received a psychiatric evaluation. I would highly recommend that, because she certainly must have been sexually abused at some point in her life and subsequently overreacted when Greg touched her. It's also possible that she overreacted because a close friend recently had been talking to her about being sexually abused herself.

At any rate, Greg has been separated from his family for a long time while in detention, and he has been placed with other adolescents who have taught him a great deal about drugs and sex that he did not know before. He certainly has many more sexual fantasies now from listening to the other adolescents.

I think it would be in his best interests to return to his family as soon as possible so that further damage would not occur.

EXCERPT 8

There are four known profiles of the typical adolescent molester of children this age. These include:

1. People who are extremely backward and unable to achieve sexual gratification by any other means. These people have low self-confidence and feel that they cannot successfully deal with members of the opposite sex.
2. People who are extremely aggressive such as the solitary aggressive conduct disorder, who are frequently violating the rights of others and who have tremendous conflict and disrespect with authority.
3. A person who has been sexually abused themselves, and because of severe and repeated sexual abuse have changed their moral standards to make this tremendous trauma acceptable to themselves.
4. People who have sustained organized brain damage and suffer from a syndrome of dyscontrol and poor impulse control. They will be at times unable to resist primitive urges to touch others.

William does not fit any of the known profiles of teenage child molesters. I do not feel that he is a danger to others, and I do not feel that sending him to a criminal facility would be an appropriate intervention. It is strongly recommended that additional material be reviewed to determine the accuracy of the victim's report.